

## REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

June 8, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 9:15 p.m. in the Student Restaurant at E.O. Smith High School.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Mr. Clouette moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2009 Special meeting as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nesbitt the motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Haddad who abstained. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2009 meeting as corrected. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Haddad who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, reiterated his desire to attend the Freedom of Information work session on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, attended the Finance Committee meeting and requested additional data and information be given to the Council prior to a decision being made on the Interlocal Finance Agreement with Columbia. Ms. Wassmundt would like an itemization of all related cost.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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Report included.

The Town Manager also reported the Traffic Authority has met with the residents of 72 Mansfield City Road and has agreed to review signage and other available options.

Mr. Clouette requested an update on new plans for the guardrails on the Gurleyville Bridge. The Town Manager will report back.

Regarding the Town Manager's report on Future Agenda Items, Mr. Nesbitt requested a workshop on police services prior to the contract approval and further discussion on the scope of the proposed parking steering committee's responsibilities.

The Town Manager recommended the public safety contract be renewed for one year since the contract expires on June 30, 2009, but agreed that the issue should soon be brought before the Council for a policy discussion. The proposed parking garage will also be a future agenda item in the near future.

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V. OLD BUSINESS

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## 1. Community/Campus Relations

Town Manager Matt Hart commented that the Committee on Community Quality of Life met recently and discussed various aspects of the Strategic Plan, recommendations for blight enforcement policies and potential residential rental parking requirements.

Mayor Paterson reported the Community/Campus Partnership discussed a number of summer projects and announced that the Town Gown Committee will soon include a member from the Campus/Community Partnership. The Mayor also announced UConn's appointment of Jim Hintz as co-chair to the Partnership.

## 2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager reported the University Water and Sewer Advisory Committee would be meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Bishop Center. He will forward the agenda to the members as soon as it is received.

Mr. Nesbitt reminded members of the June 9 informational meeting regarding the Four Corners Sewer project and urged them to attend.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 3. Windham Region Chamber of Commerce Tourism Update

To be rescheduled.

### 4. Transfer of Uncollected Taxes to Property Suspense Book

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved effective June 8, 2009, to transfer \$95,536.61 in uncollected property taxes to the Mansfield Property Suspense Book, as recommended by the Collector of Revenue.

Mr. Clouette stated the Finance Committee did review the transfer and recommends its acceptance to the Council.

Ms. Koehn asked if the suspense list could be put on the website, noting that it might serve as an impetus for people to pay. Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Haddad seconded a motion to refer the matter to the Finance Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Paterson asked if liens could be put on the properties of those on the list. The Finance Department will review.

Motion to transfer passed unanimously.

5. Capital Improvement Program Closeouts/Adjustments

Mr. Clouette moved, effective June 8, 2009, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects Fund, as presented by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated June 2, 2009.

Mr. Clouette reported the Finance Committee discussed and recommends the adjustments to the Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. CSEA, Local 760 (Public Works) Contract Extension, July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective June 8, 2009, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed one-year contract extension to the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Local 760, CSEA, Public works Employees, which agreement shall enter into effect on July 1, 2009 and expire on June 30, 2010.

Mr. Schaefer questioned the meaning of the words "significantly less" in the memo. Mr. Hart explained that the union has agreed to meet again if revenues fall to a level that might precipitate layoffs.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Non-Union Compensation for July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010 (FY 09/10)

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to endorse the Town Manager's recommendations regarding wage and benefits freezes for regular non-union employees for Fiscal Year 2009-1020 (July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010) as outlined in this memorandum.

Mr. Schaefer moved to amend the motion to add the wording found in the Agenda Item Summary for the CSEA, Local 760 Contract, which states that if financial circumstances improve then wages may be revisited. This would allow regular non-union employees to receive the same potential benefits as the union employees. Seconded by Mr. Haddad the motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus.

The motion as amended passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus who voted nay.

8. Communicating Mansfield Positions

Ms. Koehn requested a motion be developed that addresses how the Mayor and other members of the Council speak for or represent the Council in various situations. Ms. Koehn reiterated that her request has nothing to do with the existing Council members or individual personalities but rather the development of an overall policy.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to refer Ms. Koehn's request to the Personnel Committee.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to add the February 3, 2009 letter regarding Communicating of Mansfield Positions to the Town Council Policy Index.

Motion passed unanimously.

## VII. DÉPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Committee has reviewed the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Columbia for financial services and members are supportive of the endeavor. Mr. Clouette noted that the Committee had five months of data to evaluate.

### IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Nesbitt asked that the Council have a discussion regarding the inclusion or exclusion of the public at the scheduled June 25<sup>th</sup> Freedom of Information training session. After a discussion members agreed that there would be one training session scheduled for staff and one scheduled for elected officials, members of advisory boards and the public. The Assistant to the Town Manager and Town Clerk will make the arrangements.

### X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. D. Holmes re: Downtown Project

10. M. Capriola re: Volunteer Drivers for Community Transportation Programs

11. Mansfield Public Library Advisory Board re: staff reduction

12. Planning, Acquisition, and Management Guidelines for Mansfield Open Space, Park, Recreation, Agricultural Properties and Conservation Easements

13. Court of Probate re: Re-structuring of the Probate Court

14. M. Stanton re: petition

15. L. Hultgren re: Force Account Work Schedule – 2009 Construction Season

16. Press Release: Four Corners Sewer/Water Advisory Committee

17. Press Release: Storrs Center Signs Letter of Intent

18. COST Town Leader's E-Bulletin

19. Chronicle "Downtown planners to meet Tuesday" – 06-01-09

20. Chronicle "Editorial: Towns stepped up where state failed" – 05-21/09
21. Chronicle "Group pushes to put Storrs Center project to..." – 05-29-09
22. Chronicle "H1N1 flu hits town" – 05-29-09
23. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05-19-09
24. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05-20-09
25. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05-27-09
26. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05-30-09
27. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 06-03-09
28. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 06-04-09
29. Chronicle "Mansfield budget to go to referendum" – 06-02-09
30. Chronicle "Mansfield council says 'yes' to fire services fees" – 05-27-09
31. Chronicle "Mansfield is closer to a green town hall" – 06-02-09
32. Chronicle "Mansfield may charge for fire inspections" – 05-26-09
33. Chronicle "Memorial Day memories" – 05-26-09
34. Chronicle "Petition seeks referendum on town budget" – 05-28-093
35. Mansfield Today "BL Companies hired for Storrs Center..." – 06-01-09
36. Mansfield Today "New fees expected to boost town revenues" – 05-28-09

#### XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed his disappointment in the Council's decision to hold 2 FOI training sessions. Mr. Hossack stated that he is one of the few citizens who take advantage of the law and feels that separate sessions would create walls between the staff and public.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, questioned the possibility of creating a mechanism that would allow residents to pay only the portion of the motor vehicle tax that they were accrued while they were in Town.

#### XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Ms. Koehn requested volunteer drivers for a community transportation program be discussed at a future meeting

Mr. Schaefer, referencing letters in the packet, asked that at the next meeting people who claimed the Annual Town Meeting was "packed" or "stacked" be in attendance to prove that it indeed was.

#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk